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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) A filter for use in a three phase slurry bubble column, which includes at least one filter section comprising a plurality of hollow, elongated filter elements disposed on a hollow manifold, with said manifold connected to a hollow filtrate conduit wherein the interior of said elements, manifold and conduit are in fluid communication and wherein each said filter element has a wall at least a portion of which is permeable to the passage of liquid therethrough, but not solids, from outside said element to said hollow interior.

Claim 2 (original) A filter according to claim 1 wherein said filter elements are vertically disposed and are laterally spaced and arranged on said manifold.

Claim 3 (original) A filter according to claim 2 wherein said manifold includes at least one horizontal wall on which said elements are laterally spaced apart and arranged across the outer surface of said wall.

Claim 4 (original) A filter according to claim 3 wherein said manifold has two horizontal walls, an upper and a lower wall and wherein said elements are laterally spaced apart and arranged across the outer surface of both of said walls.

Claim 5 (original) A filter according to claim 4 wherein said elements comprise sintered metal.

Claims 6-18 (cancelled)